

Dear Mr. Goddard:

I recently read that the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is no longer picking up cats due to budget cuts. Even in the best economy, trap and remove is not a wise use of limited municipal funds. Decades of trapping and removing feral cats has not resulted in a long-term reduction in their numbers or improved the quality of life of cats or citizens.

As you know, feral cats are the offspring of unsterilized lost and abandoned pet cats and other feral cats. Reducing the total number of cats is essential to combat cat overpopulation. It is fortunate that Springfield Animal Advocacy Foundation operates a low-cost spay and neuter clinic for pet owners and feral cat caretakers. I am sure that any financial support you could provide SAAF would be put to good use.

The most effective way to stabilize feral cat populations is through mass trapping. I would be happy to send you our CD/DVD, "Effectively Managing Feral Cats.", It contains: two videos ("Trap-Neuter-Return: Fixing Feral Cat Overpopulation," and "How to Perform a Mass Trapping"); two books ("The Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook: A Guide to Trap-Neuter-Return for the Feral Cat Caretaker" and "Implementing a Community Trap-Neuter-Return Program"); and a PowerPoint presentation. If you would like to receive the CD/DVD, please provide your snail mail address.

I hope our resources for effectively managing feral cats at www.humanesociety.org/feralcats will benefit you, especially our Position on Trap Neuter Return, 16-minute video, and FAQs at http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/feral_cats/facts/TNR_statement.html, http://www.humanesociety.org/news/multimedia/?fr_story=3f1855c92b1034a02479ea5625635dd88b65f6f9 and http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/feral_cats/qa/feral_cat_FAQs.html.

If I can be of assistance to the city, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,